

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, Claims 1, 12 and 14 have been amended to delete step (II).
Claims 10 and 11 have been canceled, accordingly.

Claims 2, 6, 7 and 9 have been amended to improve their form. These amendments are not to be deemed to narrow the scope of the claims.

No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.
Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-9 and 12-14 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Uchida et al (US 2002/0187097). Further, Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Uchida et al. Moreover, Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kajihara et al (US 2002/0131856). Furthermore, Claims 1-14 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 5-15 of copending Application No. 10/671,727. Still further, Claims 1-14 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-10 of copending Application No. 10/846,693. Last, Claims 1-11 and 14 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-15 of copending Application No. 11/076,836.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references, alone or in combination. Specifically, all of the references are cited as disclosing the step (II) of the present invention. As noted above, Applicants have amended the claims to delete step (II). Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the §§ 102 and 103 rejections and the provisional double patenting rejections.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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